Reviewer's report

**Title:** Different patient subgroup, different ranking? Which quality indicators are important for patients choosing a hospital for hip- or knee arthroplasty?

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 May 2011

**Reviewer:** Ingeborg Strømseng Sjetne

**Reviewer's report:**

I consider this a well written and to the point study into a matter that challenges those with interests in communicating comparative healthcare information.

Minor essential revisions

1. I would prefer to know more about the representativeness of the sample. Was the response rate similar between the randomly selected patients and the volunteers invited on websites? I would expect that the latter group had a stronger tendency to respond to a survey on this matter and also perhaps have another age, education level and search/selection behavior composition. –i.e. the characteristics in which you found differences. Also, since a considerable part of the sample was self-selected, how did the sample reflect this specific patient population?

Following the above, there may be a need to elaborate on the third limitation mentioned in the discussion.

2. Table numbers and place in text need harmonization.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I work at the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, a public and not for profit organisation that performs documentation and research in closely related areas. Financial gains or losses are not relevant.